



Oil industry to fight offshore drill bans

By the Associated Press

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WASHINGTON — The U.S. oil industry's chief trade group wants the Obama administration to reconsider its decision not to pursue offshore drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico or along the nation's East Coast.

Jack Gerard, president of the American Petroleum Institute, said the group will press lawmakers and administration officials to expand drilling along the Atlantic coast and in Alaska. If agreement cannot be reached, Gerard said he would support language favored by some congressional Republicans to mandate expanded drilling.

Obama's decision to scale back offshore drilling reversed an earlier plan to expand drilling. It was prompted by the oil spill in the Gulf.

Gerard said the decision "sends job creation elsewhere and closes the door on economic growth." He spoke as the group released its annual "State of the American Energy" report Tuesday.